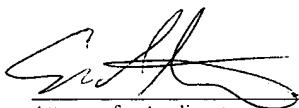


REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Examiner's Office Action dated August 25, 2006. Of the pending claims at that time, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 14, 15, and 23 were rejected. However, claims 2, 4, 9-13, 16-18 and 21 were indicated as allowed or allowable. Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 14 by incorporating the limitations of allowable claims 2 and 16, respectively. Claims 2 and 16 have been cancelled. Applicants have also amended allowable claim 9 by incorporating the limitations of claim 1 before claim 1 was amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2. Claim 23 has been cancelled. In light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of all pending claims.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia, 22313-1450, on December 26, 2006.



Attorney for Applicants

12/26/06
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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